

HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

Teacher's Guide

- **An Idea Is Developed.** Legislators, along with constituents, government agencies, special interest groups, lobbyists, or the Governor come up with ideas they think should become law.
- **The Bill is Drafted.** Once a good idea has been organized, the idea is submitted to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel in the form of a bill request. At the office, an attorney reviews existing law, researches the issues, prepares the bill and gives it a number. The bill is reviewed one more time before it is introduced.
- **The Bill is Introduced.** The bill is introduced into the Legislature.
- **The Bill Receives Review and Public Input.** The standing committee reviews the bill and holds an open meeting for the bill to be discussed. The committee amends, holds, substitutes and/or recommends the bill.
- **The Bill Is Returned to the Floor.** Once the committee is done with the bill, they return it to the House with their changes. The committee then tells the Representatives what they think of the bill.
- **The Bill is Debated During Session.** During floor debate, the legislators discuss the bill. They decide if they want to continue with the bill, or if it should be held or substituted. If 38 or more Representatives like the bill, it passes through the House of Representatives and goes to the Senate. There have to be 15 senators who vote for the bill to continue onward.
- **The Bill Passes Both Houses in the Legislature.** After the bill has gone through both houses, it is signed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House.
- **The Bill is Prepared for the Governor's Action.** Once the bill passes both houses, it goes back to The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel so the an attorney can create the "enrolled" bill.
- **The Bill Receives the Governor's Action.** The enrolled bill is then sent to the Governor. He can sign the bill, veto it, or allow it become law without his signature.
- **The Bill Becomes Effective.**